

## Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1. (currently amended): A filter cartridge for filtering a slurry composition which comprises:

a hollow housing; ~~having~~ a first end cap including an inlet; a second end cap including an outlet; an annular spacer having an open portion and a solid portion and depth filter material inside the housing, wherein said filter material is formed of at least two segments and separated by said annular spacer said hollow housing being free of an open void volume having a height greater than about 1 inch upstream of said depth filter and the ratio of the height of said depth filter segments to the height of said annular spacers being between about 1:1 and about 5:1.

Claim 2. (previously presented): The filter cartridge of claim 1 wherein said annular spacers have a thickness less than about 0.12 inches.

Claim 3. (previously presented): The filter cartridge of claim 2 wherein said depth filter segments comprise a wound depth filter comprising nonwoven fibers.

Claim 4. (previously presented): The filter cartridge of claim 2 wherein said depth filter segments comprise a stack of sheets wherein each sheet comprises nonwoven fibers.

Claim 5. (previously presented): The filter cartridge of claim 2 wherein said depth filter segments comprise a fibrous mass of nonwoven polymeric fibers secured together by mechanical entanglement of the fibers.

Claim 6. (previously presented): The filter cartridge of any one of claims 2, 3, 4 or 5 wherein the ratio of depth filter segment thickness to spacer thickness is from about 1.1:1 to about 5:1.

Claim 7. (currently amended): The filter cartridge of claim 6 wherein the ratio of depth filter segment thickness to spacer thickness is from about 1.5:1 to about 3:1.

- Claim 8. (previously presented): The filter cartridge of any one of Claims 1,2,3,4 or 5 wherein the housing is free of an open void volume downstream of said depth filter.
- Claim 9. (previously presented): The filter cartridge of any one of Claims 1,2,3,4 or 5 wherein the depth filter inserted into the housing is precompressed into its final length.
- Claim 10. (withdrawn-currently amended): The filter cartridge of any one of Claims 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 wherein ~~further comprising~~ said end caps are secured to the end of the cartridge by a mechanical device.
- Claim 11. (withdrawn): The filter cartridge of claim 10 wherein the inner walls of the housing adjacent the ends of the housing have one or more slots formed therein, the end caps contain one or more C-rings and the C-rings secure the end caps to the housing by fitting at least partially into the one or more slots of the housing.
- Claim 12. (withdrawn): The filter cartridge of Claim 10 wherein the outer walls of the housing adjacent the ends of the housing have a flange formed thereon and the end caps are secured to the flange by a C-ring.
- Claim 13. (withdrawn-currently amended) The filter cartridge of Claim 11 wherein the end caps are formed of two or more pieces known as the inner end cap piece and outer end cap piece and at least the inner end cap piece is secured by said C-ring to said housing.
- Claim 14. (withdrawn) The filter cartridge of Claim 13 wherein the outer end cap is secured to the inner cap piece.
- Claim 15. (previously presented): The filter cartridge of any one of claims 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 wherein the media has a surface treatment selected from the group consisting of hydrophobicity, hydrophilicity or a positive or negative charge.
- Claim 16. (currently amended) A process for filtering a slurry which comprises passing a slurry through a filter cartridge as defined in any one of claims 1, 2, 3, ~~4, 5, 7, 11, 12 or 13~~ 4 or 5 and;  
  
recovering a filtered slurry from said cartridge.
- Claim 17. (original): The process of Claim 16, wherein said slurry is selected from the group consisting of a silica-based slurry, an alumina-based slurry, a ceria-based slurry, a diamond-based slurry, a MnO<sub>2</sub>- based slurry, a cell broth, a photoresist chemical, a fermentation liquid, blood, a blood fraction and a transgenic liquid.

Claim 18. (withdrawn): The filter cartridge of Claim 1 wherein the depth filter inserted into the housing is precompressed into its final length before insertion into the housing.

Claims 19-24 (canceled)

Claim 25. (withdrawn-currently amended): The filter cartridge of Claim 12 wherein the end caps are formed of two or more pieces known as the inner end cap piece and outer end cap piece and at least the inner end cap piece is secured by said C-ring to said housing.

Claim 26. (withdrawn): A process for filtering a slurry which comprises passing a slurry through a filter cartridge as defined in Claim 11, and recovering a filtered slurry from said cartridge.

Claim 27. (withdrawn-currently amended): A process for filtering a slurry which comprises passing a slurry through a filter cartridge as defined in ~~Claim 12~~, 3 Claim 12, and recovering a filtered slurry from said cartridge.